

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is responsive to the final rejection in the Office Action dated March 4, 2003.

Formal Drawings

The Examiner required formal drawings. Revised formal drawings are enclosed herewith.

Formal Matters

The Examiner objected to the claim language under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraphs 1 and 2. The Examiner's strenuous efforts to make his grounds for rejection more clear are much appreciated.

The preambles of claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended, so that each claim now covers "a control circuit for controlling a driving circuit for driving a power device" Each embodiment of the invention (Fig. 4 for example) has a driver (44) which drives a power device (42). The driver (44) is controlled by a control circuit in each embodiment. The control circuit is the claimed invention. The control circuit includes sensing circuitry (60, 46, etc.) and correction circuitry (160 or 190, etc.)

Thus, the applicants are claiming a control circuit for controlling a driving circuit. A driving circuit is not positively claimed in claims 1-17 because it is not part of the invention. Driving circuits are known. The general characteristics of signals that can control these driving circuits are known. The invention relates to novel control circuits for controlling these known driving circuits by sensing and correcting information indicative of the operation of the power device being driven.

It is believed the nature of the invention has now been clarified by the preamble amendments herein. The scope of the claimed subject matter (the sensing and correction circuitry) is not being changed by the preamble amendments. However, the utility of the invention is being clarified according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Claims 18-20 depend respectively from claims 1, 9 and 17 and positively recite driving circuits controlled by the control circuits of the independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections is requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-22 were rejected as being anticipated by Kimura et al. '479. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Original claims 2, 21 and 22 recite that “the gating device provides spurious negative spikes, the correction circuitry preventing negative spikes in the sense input signal.” There is no such disclosure in Kimura. The Office Action has pointed to nothing in Kimura relevant to these claims. At best, the Examiner has identified “an overcurrent” as being “spurious information,” but nothing about such “overcurrent” containing any “negative spikes.” The rejection of claims 2, 21 and 22 therefore should be withdrawn.

New claims 23-25 each recite that “said spurious information includes at least one of high-frequency noise and a negative voltage spike.” See page 3, lines 22-23 and page 5, lines 7-10. Nothing in Kimura suggests that its gating device may carry “spurious information” as defined in claims 23-25; nor does Kimura have any correction circuitry for blocking either high-frequency noise or a negative voltage spike from being received from a gating device and included in a sense input signal. Claims 23-25 therefore should be allowed.

Further, the rejection of claims 1, 9 and 17 over Kimura is traversed. The Examiner has identified an “overcurrent,” mentioned in Kimura at col. 5, line 59 to col. 6, line 12, as being “spurious information.”

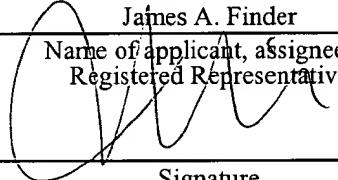
The Examiner's position is illogical, since one of the intended functions of Kimura's system, indeed as explained at col. 5, line 59 to col. 6, line 12, is to detect and respond to overcurrent in a power device being controlled. Thus, there is nothing “spurious” about information pertaining to overcurrent. Further, it would defeat Kimura's purpose to prevent a sense input signal from including information about overcurrents.

Moreover, according to claims 1, 9 and 17, the correction circuitry of the present invention is for preventing the sense input signal from including spurious information received from the gating device. On this point, the Examiner commented that a circuit in Kimura “prevents the spurious information from being passed to the 'gating device.’” Thus, according to

the Examiner's own interpretation of the reference, Kimura fails to either disclose or suggest the subject matter of claims 1, 9 and 17.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the formal and prior art rejections, and allow claims 1-27.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 3, 2003:



James A. Finder
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

June 3, 2003
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Finder
Registration No.: 30,173
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

JAF:lac:msd